

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancel)
2. (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services, comprising:
 - submitting a bid to an auction moderator via an online auction to provide a data communication service;
 - providing the data communication service;
 - receiving, at the auction moderator, a service provider rating from a recipient of the data communication service indicating whether the data communication service was satisfactorily provided by the service provider; and
 - providing a recipient rating to the auction moderator in which the [[a]] service provider of the data communication service indicates whether the recipient ~~of the segmentation service~~ satisfactorily paid for the data service communication service.
3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein receiving the service provider rating comprises receiving feedback ~~regarding the recipient of the communication service, the feedback~~ indicating whether the recipient was satisfied with the data communication service.
4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein receiving the service provider rating comprises receiving the service provider rating from a client communications device ~~associated with the recipient of the communication service~~.
5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein providing the recipient rating comprises indicating charges were accepted by a credit card associated with the recipient[[’s]] ~~credit card accepted charges for the communication service~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, further comprising causing display of the service provider rating during a future online auction ~~of communications services~~ to indicate that future data communication services will be satisfactorily provided.
7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein providing the communication service comprises:

determining a subcontracted processing service is required;
subcontracting at least a portion of the data service to a different service provider
to receive the subcontracted processing service; and
receiving a result of the subcontracted processing service

~~receiving a first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol,~~
~~segmenting the first data stream into segments,~~
~~dispersing the segments via a communications network for subsequent processing services,~~
~~receiving results of the subsequent processing services,~~
~~determining a subcontracted processing service is required from a different service provider,~~
~~grouping together individual packets of data as a new segment that requires the subcontracted processing service,~~
~~subcontracting the new segment to the different service provider to receive the subcontracted processing service,~~
~~receiving a subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service,~~
~~aggregating the results of the subsequent processing services and the subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service into a second data stream, and~~
~~communicating the second data stream via the communications network.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services, comprising:

auctioning a block of time of data communication service ~~that may be shared between multiple client communications devices;~~

receiving a bid at an auction moderator that conducts an auction for the block of time of data service;

~~accepting~~ selecting the bid to provide the block of time of data service; and

receiving at the auction moderator a service provider rating from a recipient of the block of time of data communications service[[,]] that indicates ~~the service provider rating indicating~~ whether the recipient was satisfied ~~with the communications service;~~ and

receiving a recipient rating at the auction moderator in which a service provider of the block of time of data communications service indicates whether the recipient of the data communications service satisfactorily paid ~~for the block of time.~~

9. (Cancel)

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the block of time of data service comprises at least one of i) a maximum data transfer rate and ii) a minimum data transfer rate.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising sharing the block of time of data service between multiple recipients ~~of the communications service.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising sharing the block of time of data service between multiple Internet Protocol ~~telephone~~ numbers.

13. (Cancel)

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising sharing the block of time of data service between [[the]] multiple client communications devices associated with multiple users.
15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising negotiating with a group of recipients for the block of time of data ~~communications~~ service, ~~the group comprising recipients willing to pay for the communications service and recipients unwilling to pay for the communications n service, wherein the recipients willing to pay for the communications service are permitted to sponsor the recipients unwilling to pay for the communications service.~~
16. (Cancel)
17. (Cancel)
18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising presenting the service provider rating during a future online auction[[,]] ~~wherein the service provider rating is used~~ to inspire trust in other recipients that their future data ~~communications~~ service will be satisfactorily provided.
19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, ~~wherein providing the communications service comprises~~ further comprising:

 determining a subcontracted processing service is required;
 subcontracting at least a portion of the data service to a different service provider to receive the subcontracted processing service; and
 receiving a result of the subcontracted processing service

 ~~receiving a first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol;~~
 ~~segmenting the first data stream into segments;~~

~~dispersing the segments via a communications network for subsequent processing services;~~
~~receiving results of the subsequent processing services;~~
~~determining a subcontracted processing service is required from a different service provider;~~
~~grouping together individual packets of data as a new segment that requires the subcontracted processing service;~~
~~subcontracting the new segment to the different service provider to receive the subcontracted processing service;~~
~~receiving a subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service;~~
~~aggregating the results of the subsequent processing services and the subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service into a second data stream; and~~
~~communicating the second data stream via the communications network.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product comprising a~~ computer readable medium storing processor executable instructions for performing a method, the method comprising:

~~conducting an auction of a block of time of usage for data of a communications services that may be shared between multiple client communications devices;~~
~~receiving a bid at an auction moderator for the block of time;~~
~~accepting the bid;~~
~~receiving a recipient rating at the auction moderator in which a service provider of the data communications services indicates whether a recipient of the data communications services satisfactorily paid for the block of time; and~~
~~receiving at the auction moderator a service provider rating from the recipient of the communications service, the service provider rating indicating whether the recipient was satisfied with the data communications services.~~